



Docket No. 54805/JPW/GJG

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4/2/03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Howard J. Worman and Naoto Mamiya  
Serial No.: 09/407,430 Examiner: Q. Nguyen  
Filed : September 29, 1999 Group Art Unit: 1632  
For : HCV E2 PROTEIN BINDING AGENTS FOR TREATMENT OF  
HEPATITIS C VIRUS INFECTION

1185 Avenue Of The Americas  
New York, New York 10036  
March 21, 2003

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Box: RCE

Sir:

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT TO THE  
ACCOMPANYING REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)

Applicants request that the following amendment be made in  
the above-identified application:

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 44-56 without prejudice to applicants'  
right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in this  
or a subsequent application.

Please add new claims 55-76 as follows:

57.  
55. A method of identifying a compound which inhibits the  
binding of hepatitis C virus envelope E2 protein to a  
cellular protein associated with hepatitis C virus  
attachment onto cells comprising:

E,  
rule  
1.26